**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**Southeast Asia Leadership Forum**

Progress report / South East Asia Youth Network/September 2023

# **Introduction**

# The Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) is an official platform created and endorsed by the Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership of the Southeast Asia National Societies to enable the youth to interact and generate new ideas, concepts, approaches, tools, campaigns, and projects to advance youth engagement in the region. SEAYN serves to provide a crucial link and opportunities for the SEA Youth to connect and strengthen their Humanitarian Action by sharing best practices with their peers within and beyond the movement at a global scale. It is also a sub-network linked to a regionwide platform, the Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN), which connects youth leaders from the whole Asia Pacific Region

# SEAYN has a special characteristic as a youth network: it ensures equal participation of National Societies Youth Focal Staff and Youth Leaders/Volunteers. Each SEA National Society supports and commits to SEAYN by nominating one NS Youth Focal staff and one Youth Leader/Volunteer to be SEAYN Members.

# The SEAYN Terms of Reference (ToR) was officially endorsed at the Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting held in Singapore in March 2014 (first revision in 2017, second revision in 2020 – [Available on SEAYN Webpage.](https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/youth-and-volunteering/southeast-asia-youth-network-seayn/seayn-and-covid-19/)

# After three years of inactivity, SEAYN was successfully revitalized in March 2020, following its prioritization in the RCRC Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting held in October 2019.

# In COVID-19 pandemic context, the Network has been particularly active in providing immediate support to the members as platform to share information and ideas for youth-led initiative in COVID-19 prevention and response. The network also worked to support the mental wellbeing of the young front-liners and of the youth isolated at home as well as to develop communications strategies to prevent stigma, discrimination, and the rise of SGBV. More about the initiatives and material developed during the first months of the pandemic can be found on the [SEAYN&COVID-19](https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/youth-and-volunteering/southeast-asia-youth-network-seayn/seayn-and-covid-19/) Page and [SEAYN Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RCRCSEAYN) Page.

**Key Progress in 2022-2023**

# Key progress for SEAYN includes

1. Handover annual Meeting from 2022 to 2023 for SEAYN Coordination team.
2. Approval and implementation of SEAYN Action Plan 2022-2023.

The Plan focuses on Youth as Leaders, Volunteers and Members of the Affected Communities according to the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy and it includes four (4) broad sections with all SEAYN representatives collaborating closely in different working groups as follows:

* Leadership (Youth Education + Youth Empowerment):
	+ tbc
* Youth Engagement
	+ Conduct Research Project: “Understanding Youth Volunteerism in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: A study on trends and Challenges in SEAYN”. More detail on this research in this attached [link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H7W2-0c1DEcFs4Ve1plDi96ebRQbmb_wwko9aSyQwTE/edit).
* Knowledge Sharing:
	+ Produce 1 midterm report for youth activity (by November 2023)
	+ Produce 1 end of term report for youth activities (By February 2023)
	+ Organize 1 internal sharing session (January 2024)
* Communication:
	+ General Advertising on Social Media (Facebook)
1. The organisation of the 9th SEAYN Annual Meeting (online event Date to be announced by the end of December 2023) with the endorsement of the new SEAYN Coordination Team.

**Key recommendations for decision**

* The SEAYN Network proved to be relevant to its members as a valuable platform for capacity building and knowledge exchange. However, to keep this platform functional, it is necessary to have regular check-in with the coordinator team.
* The sustainability of the Network heavily depends on the commitment of its members, both in terms of National Societies’ representation/active participation and financial independence. With the Leaders prioritisation of the Network, each National Society commits to appoint motivated representatives that can also report back to their National Societies on their involvement in the Network on a regular basis.
* We call for the Leaders support in ensuring that such youth representation is formally included in each National Society Statute and Youth Policy, upon a consultation with the youth on the status of Youth Engagement in the National Society. Together, by the end of 2024, we can aim at having all eleven SEA National Societies with
	+ youth-led structures representing the youth volunteers at branch, provincial and national levels.
	+ youth representatives in the National Society’s governing board.
	+ updated Youth Policies, Youth Engagement Strategies and Volunteering Policies.

# Contact information

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